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H.I.H. MERD AZMATCH ASFA WOSSEN H.S.  
CROWN PRINCE OF ETHIOPIA

March 30th, 1975

82 Portland Place,  
London. W.1.

Dear Mr President,

You are aware that a group of mutineers have usurped power in my country. Since these people do not represent the will of the Ethiopian people I most urgently request for your assistance to help my people, in their struggle to liberate themselves from the reign of terror of these mutineers.

I also call upon your Government not to accord recognition to this illegitimate regime.

Yours sincerely,

*Azmatch Asfa Wossen*



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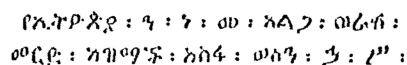
Dear Ambassador - High Commissioner,

I would be most grateful if you would kindly  
convey the attached statement to your Head of State  
and Government urgently.

Please accept the assurance of my highest  
consederation.

Yours sincerely,

*Azmatch Asfa Wossen*



30th March, 1975.  
London.

In February 1974, a small group of irresponsible soldiers mutinied against their commanding officers, at various levels and plunged Ethiopia into a grave political crisis. Through a steady crescendo of deceit and constantly swearing loyalty and allegiance to the Emperor, they used his constitutional power and authority to further their evil ambitions and iniquitous objectives, always, alas, masquerading as reformists.

In November 1974, this small faceless group of mutineers and brigandes committed the most hideous crime in Ethiopian history when, without any trial or through the due process of law they massacred over sixty Ethiopians. At that time, I in these words called the attention of the world to the plight facing all Ethiopians. "I strongly condemn this massacre without trial by the Military Regime. The Establishment of the Commission of Enquiry and the Military Tribunal to dispense justice and provide a fair trial has been bypassed in a mockery of justice. This is an affront to all Ethiopians, young and old, who are struggling to create a joint system in our country. The wrongs of the past should be corrected but not used as grounds for unproduction vengeance.

I again demand the establishment of a democratic Government of the people towards which all Ethiopians must work united in peace."

Throughout December 1974 and January 1975, this small group of faceless mutineers not only ushered a region of terror in the country but also incited and precipitated a fratricidal war in Eritria which has already resulted in the death of thousands of Ethiopians who were made to kill each other like beasts of prey.

Since their avaricious greed for power knows no limits, only a few weeks ago they announced that, since the Ethiopian people are not politically emancipated enough to shape their own destiny, they will not hand over political power to a popularly elected Government and parliament. Earlier, they had announced also that the future of the monarchy would be decided through a national referendum.

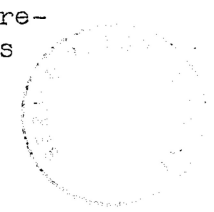
On March 21st, 1975, this same group of mutineers announced that they have abolished the monarchy and that the people shall elect a Head of State of a Socialist Republic. The question now is how did they politicise the "un-emancipated Ethiopians" in a matter of a few weeks and enable them to exercise their national rights?

I wish to hereby state that this declaration of this brutal group of mutineers was not made after any consultation with the Ethiopian people, either through an elected parliament or through representatives of the constituent-regions of the nation. At no time have these self-appointed usurpers of power given the Ethiopian people the opportunity to express their wishes and aspirations about the constitutional future of the country or about such essentially important issues of land reform and representative local government.

Throughout historically attested times, Ethiopia has possessed a monarchy which had given the country cohesion and guaranteed its independence and territorial integrity. The crown has been the effective symbol of Ethiopian unity and to discard this cohesive institution at the very moment when Ethiopia's unity is so gravely threatened is scarcely the action of responsible government. I state this not motivated by considerations of my own position or in defence of the monarchy as such. I am stating this because of my deep convictions and out of genuine concern for the welfare of the Ethiopian people who, alone should decide their own political destiny and form of government.

The Crown Princeship of Ethiopia has fallen upon me by constitutional legality and by the sacred trust of the Ethiopian people. I seek no personal position, power or office. But it is my national, moral and human duty to awaken the conscience of the world to the fate of my people who have been rendered homeless, speechless and reduced to national serfdom. They have been made tenants of their homes. They are being massacred by the hundreds every day. Ethiopian youth have been denied their right to education because the mutineers have closed schools and universities.

I declare that the mutineers who are now holding the Ethiopian people in brutal hostage and their freedom to ransom, do not represent let alone the Ethiopian people but not even the Armed Forces of Ethiopia.





I therefore urgently call upon all freedom loving peoples of the world to condemn this brutal decimation of the Ethiopian people by these power hungry and avaricious mutineers.

I urgently call upon the Organization of African Unity to convene an extra-ordinary session and deliberate upon measures to be taken to liberate Ethiopia.

I urgently call upon the United Nations to use all their power and influence and bring sanctions to bear against these unlawful group of usurpers and assassins and prevent them from perpetuating acts of terrorism and annihilation upon the Ethiopian people.

I most urgently appeal to all friendly nations of Ethiopia not to accord the respectable cloak of recognition to these mutinous terrorists. In the words of my father "God and history will remember your judgement".

I call upon all international humanitarian organizations to urgently intervene to save the lives, not only of the Emperor and his family, but the hundreds of Ethiopians who have been kept cruelly detained for over a year.

I also warn anyone covetous of Ethiopia's territorial integrity, not to try to take advantage of our momentary internal tribulations and hardships and to refrain from taking any adventuristic steps.

I address urgently all the gallant sons and daughters of Ethiopia who have now arisen to struggle and liberate Ethiopia from the mutinous brigandes, to co-ordinate their actions with those of general body of our Armed Forces who are not at all supporters of the mutineers who call themselves "The Derg".

Let us march forward to create a just and liberal society in equality, fraternity and unity.